

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are the claims currently pending in the Application.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. These amendments are fully supported by Applicant's Disclosure.

Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the priority document.

Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 26, 2001 and on August 20, 2004.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Garrity. This rejection is traversed.

Among the problems recognized and solved by Applicant's claimed invention is that of reducing the load on a user terminal in the authentication process with a web server. According to an aspect of Applicant's claimed invention, a proxy server records data received from the user terminal that is required for the user authentication process.

Applicant's claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious from the cited reference. By way of example, Garrity does not disclose or suggest a user

authentication proxy unit between a user terminal and a web server recording data received from the user terminal required for performing user authentication operations, as *inter alia*, required by independent claims 1 and 6. Further, Garrity does not disclose or suggest a user authentication proxy unit that stores information associated with a sequence of the user authentication processes, including data sent by the user terminal to the web server for user authentication as *inter alia* required by independent claim 3.

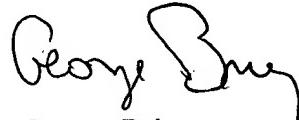
Garrity discloses managing and delivering multimedia content by use of an operations center. Garrity discloses that the operations center receives data, such as multimedia data, from content providers (Garrity, column 4, lines 33-53); and, that the operations center allows only valid transmissions directed to the various delivery networks via the gateways associated with the operations center (Garrity, column 2, lines 28-47).

Garrity does not disclose or suggest the above-cited recitations of independent claims 1, 3 and 6. First, Garrity does not disclose or suggest sending data from a user terminal to an authentication proxy unit. As discussed, Garrity is directed to multicasting in involving downstream communication from content providers to users via the operations center.

Further, since Garrity does not disclose suggest this feature, Garrity is incapable of disclosing or suggesting that the data sent from the user terminal to the proxy server is for authentication operations, or that this data is saved by the proxy unit. Therefore, Garrity does not disclose or suggest that the recitations of independent claims 1, 3 and 6. Accordingly, this rejection should now be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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